REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated August 4, 2010. Claims 1, 4-17, 19, 21-23, 77, 79-92, 96-100, 102, 103, 105-111, and 113-119 currently stand rejected. As explained below, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the cited references, taken individually or in any proper combination. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended various ones of the claims to further clarify the claimed invention. No new matter has been added by the amendment. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

A. *Claims 98 and 108 are Supported by the Specification.*

Claims 98 and 108 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly not being supported by the specification. However, as amended, the claims include a recitation to a computing device, which is clearly supported by the specification at least at page 15, lines 5-9. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 98 and 108 in this regard, is overcome.

B. *Claims 1, 4-13, 19, 23, 77, 79-88, 97-99, 102, 103, 105-108, 110, 111, and 113-119 are Nonobvious.*

Claims 1, 4-13, 19, 23, 77, 79-88, 97-99, 102, 103, 105-108, 110, 111, and 113-116 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,404,754 to Lim. However, Lim fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the claims and the claimed invention is not an obvious variant of the cited combination.

Independent claim 1, and similarly independent claims 9, 12, 13, 97-99, 106-108, and 110, recite "cause the connection to be released in an instance in which there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time by: causing transmission of a release message to an entity within the core network of the cellular communications network, the release message comprising an indication of the reason for releasing the connection, receiving a release command from the entity within the core network of the cellular communications network, and in response to receiving the release command, causing a connection release message to be sent to the mobile station...." None of Lim, Bhatia, or a combination thereof, teaches or suggests these features.

The Office Action now relies upon Bhatia for allegedly teaching messaging with an entity of the core network of a cellular communications network. However, Bhatia is unrelated to the operation of a cellular communications network, and as such, Bhatia cannot be relied upon for teaching or suggesting the transmission or receipt of any type of message to "an entity within the core network of the cellular communications network." Bhatia is directed to an ISDN LAN system, and as indicated in the field of the invention section, is concerned with the workstations of the LAN gaining access to outside network via an internal router. This type of network structure bears no resemblance to a core network of a cellular communications system. Even the Office Action attempts to explain away this clear distinction by indicating that asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) is a cell based technique and indicates that ATM" serves as the core protocol to the ISDN backbone." These statements are unsupported by the content of Bhatia and, even if they were, the correlation is insufficient because the claims language is quite clear with regard to the context of the message being within the core network of a cellular communications system. Further, merely because a communication technique is used as a "core protocol" does not necessarily mean that a message is received or transmitted to an entity of a "core network of a cellular communications system." As such Bhatia fails to teach or suggest this feature which Lim admittedly fails to teach, and the Lim cannot be properly combined with Bhatia for this purpose.

Additionally, the combination of Lim and Bhatia, in contrast to the position taken by the Office Action, fails to teach or suggest a "release message comprising an indication of the reason for releasing the connection" as recited in the claims. The disclosure of Bhatia is relied upon for allegedly disclosing this feature of including an indication of the reason for releasing the connection. However, the cited portion of Bhatia fails to describe this feature. The Office Action cites to col. 34, line 64 to col. 35 to line 1 for allegedly teaching or suggesting the feature. This portion of Bhatia does not, however, teach or suggest a message with an indication of a reason for releasing a connection. Rather, the cited portion merely describes the use of message in response to an expired timer. The content of the message is not described, and as such, there is no indication that the message includes a reason for releasing the connection. This is presumably because, within the context of Bhatia, the reason for the message is unnecessary,

since the only trigger for the message is the timer. As such, Bhatia fails to teach or suggest a feature that the Office Action relies upon to construct the cited combination. As such, the claims are patentable over the cited combination.

Further, one of skill would not be inclined to combine a release message comprising an indication of the reason for releasing the connection, as allegedly described in Bhatia, with the disclosure of Lim, because Lim also discloses only one reason (i.e., expiration of a timer) for releasing the connection. In this regard, at column 7, lines 31-45, Lim describes the operation of a point-to-point (PPP) link timer. When the PPP link timer expires the mobile station is moved to a "dormant-open state." Upon entering the dormant-open state, a dormant timer is initiated. When the dormant timer expires, "the RNC 400 informs the mobile switching center 500 to release a switching virtual circuit." In other words, after a series of timers elapse, a communication is provided to initiate a release. The only criteria provided by Lim for triggering this communication is the expiration of these timers.

As a result, one of ordinary skill in the art would be disinclined to provide an indication of the reason in the release message, where, as in Lim and in Bhatia, only one reason is defined as a trigger for releasing the connection. Therefore, the act of providing the reason in a message only results in added processing and/or overhead. In the context of Lim and Bhatia, where only one option is part of the system, one of skill in the art would consider the act of providing of information indicating that the timer has elapsed to be wasteful and unnecessary because the message is provided for only one reason - the elapsed timer. The mere existence of the message provides this information. As such, one of skill in the art would not be inclined to add this information to the communication described in Lim and therefore the combination relied upon by the Office Action is improper.

Additionally, the claims recite that the connection to be released is an active connection. This also contrasts with the disclosure of Lim, despite the Office Action relying upon Lim for this purpose. Lim describes a system where the connection goes dormant (no longer active), and then a second timer is started to determine when the now dormant connection is to be released. When the second timer elapses, the dormant connection is released. If the connection in Lim were to become active again, after the first timer elapsed, the first timer is reset and the

procedure is repeated. As such, only a dormant connection is released in Lim. In contrast, the claimed invention operates with respect to an active connection, and the active connection is targeted to be released.

In addition to the reasons set forth above, independent claim 13 is also patentable over Lim as applied, because Lim fails to teach or suggest a parameter, as recited in claim 13, "based on movement of the mobile station." Lim provides no disclosure that correlates to a parameter that is indicative of movement. The Office Action essentially admits this by attempting to associate "movement of the mobile station" to "inactivity" as provided on page 8 of the Office Action. In this regard, the Office Action is failing to consider the express content of the claim, and is simply rejecting the claims based on the alleged disclosure of a broader concept without citation to specific features that can be correlated to the claim language. The citations to Lim provided by the Office Action that are allegedly directed to the feature of a parameter indicative of movement, bare no relationship to movement and simply disclose the series of timers that is described above. The timers disclosed in Lim run when frame data is not transmitted and the connection becomes dormant. (Lim, column 7, lines 31-35). As such, the operation of the timers is not indicative of movement of the mobile station because the absence of frame data on the connection cannot be directly correlated to movement of the mobile station. Accordingly, claim 13 and its respective dependent claims are patentable over Lim and the rejection of these claims is overcome for this additional reason.

Based on the foregoing, independent claims 9, 12, 13, 97-99, 106-108, and 110, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Lim as applied for at least the reasons cited above. The rejection of claims 1, 4-13, 19, 23, 77, 79-88, 97-99, 102, 103, 105-108, 110, 111, and 113-116 is therefore overcome.

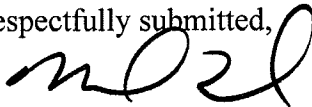### *C. Claims 14-17, 21, 22, 89-92, 96, 100, and 109 are Nonobvious.*

Claims 14-17, 21, 22, 89-92, 96, 100, and 109 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim and Bhatia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,000 to Stephenson. However, the cited combination relies upon Lim and Bhatia for disclosing the same features as described above. In particular, independent claims 16 and 109, which are rejected as being obvious in view of the cited combination, include similar features as those described above

with respect to claim 1, and therefore Lim and Bhatia similarly fail to teach these features included by independent claims 16 and 109. The dependent claims rejected in this regard also include similar recitations, at least via dependency, that are not taught or suggested by Lim and Bhatia. Since Lim and Bhatia fail in this regard, and Stephenson does not cure the deficiencies of Lim and Bhatia (nor is Stephenson cited for this purpose), claims 14-17, 21, 22, 89-92, 96, 100, and 109 are patentable over the cited combination due at least to the failures of Lim and Bhatia. The rejections of claims 14-17, 21, 22, 89-92, 96, 100, and 109 are therefore overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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